

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 01569 281539Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01569

EXDIS

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E. O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, UK
SUBJECT: THE FIRST US-EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION IN
LONDON: A BRIEF RETROSPECTIVE

REF: LONDON 1382

L. US-EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION UNDER THE BRITISH
PRESIDENCY HAS HAD AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING. HMG WAS
MOST PLEASED WITH THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THE
FIRST SUBMISSIONS FROM WASHINGTON TO LONDON. IN TURN,
WE WERE BRIEFED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL BY THE FOREIGN
OFFICE ON THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' SESSIONS. IN FACT,
THE EMBASSY'S FCO INTERLOCUTOR CONDUCTED THE BRIEFING
BY READING ALMOST VERBATIM FROM THE EC DECISION
MEMORANDUM OF THE JANUARY 25-26 MEETINGS, A MEMORANDUM
WHICH INCIDENTALLY TOOK FOUR HOURS OF LATE NIGHT
NEGOTIATION TO PRODUCE. THIS DOCUMENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY
SENT TO BRITAIN'S PARTNERS AS A PERMANENT RECORD OF
THESE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TALKS.

2. THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN ON HOW
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PAGE 02 LONDON 01569 281539Z

TO PROCESS THE WEIGHTY WASHINGTON SUBSTANTIVE CON-
TRIBUTION TO THE NINE'S DELIBERATIONS. THE BRITISH
FEARED THAT IF THEY SIMPLY SENT THE US PAPERS TO THE
EIGHT, THE ABRUPT INCREASE IN SUBSTANTIVE INTENSITY
WOULD UPSET STOMACHS IN PARIS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY
TRUE, WE WERE TOLD, BECAUSE POLITICAL COMMITTEE
DISCUSSIONS ARE BASED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON EC WORKING

GROUP PAPERS AND DO NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO OBVIOUS MAINLINE US INJECTIONS. AFTER CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT, HMG DECIDED ON A MORE SUBTLE APPROACH--TO INTEGRATE US ANALYSES AND POSITIONS AS RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON INTO THESE EXPERTS' STUDIES WHICH ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE BRITISH AND ARE ONGOING. LESS FORMALLY, UK POLITICAL DIRECTOR REG HIBBERT ALSO USED THE US CONTRIBUTION WHEN APPROPRIATE DURING THESE JANUARY 25-26 DISCUSSIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH THERE IS UNQUESTIONABLY A CONSENSUS WITHIN THE EC TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ON MAJOR ISSUES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WALK THIS PARTICULAR WIRE BETWEEN FORMALITY AND INFORMALITY IN US-EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION. THE FRENCH AND OTHERS STILL REMEMBER THE THEOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS OF 1973-74. THUS, WHILE WASHINGTON WILL GO ON ROUTINELY PROVIDING US COMMENTS ON THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' AGENDA, IT STRIKES US THAT THE SORTS OF MESSAGES FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMUNITY ON CYPRUS, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WE RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL ARE AN ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE MEANS TO MAKE IMPORTANT US VIEWS CLEAR WITHOUT RUFFLING PARISIAN FEATHERS. SUCH COMMUNICATIONS ARE NOW OF COURSE AN ACCEPTED METHOD OF US EXCHANGE WITH THE NINE.

4. FINALLY, WE WISH TO THANK THE DEPARTMENT AND SPECIFICALLY EUR/RPE FOR GETTING THE US-EC DIALOGUE HERE IN LONDON OFF TO SUCH A GOOD START.
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PAGE 03 LONDON 01569 281539Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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